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Tarble Arts Center Newsletter

Tarble Arts Center

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Tarble Arts Center Newsletter December 1987

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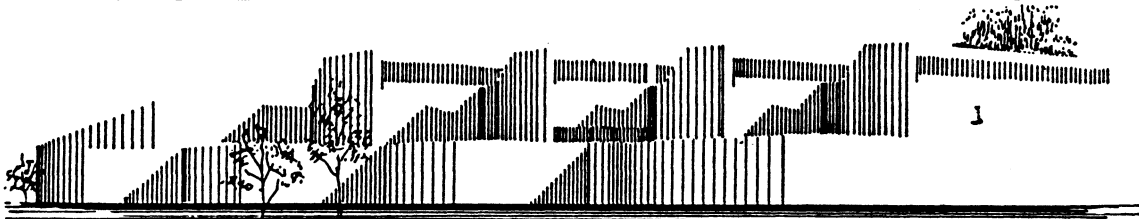
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TARBLE ARTS CENTER



Newsletter

Dec. 1987

EXHIBITIONS

PRAIRIESCAPES

—November 28 - January 3,
Brainard and Donnelly & Sons Galleries

Approximately thirty color photographs of the east central Illinois landscape and related studies by Champaign artist Larry Kanfer make up this exhibition. The exhibition's opening has been coordinated with the release of Kanfer's book Prairiescapes, published by the University of Illinois Press. Kanfer's works range from intentionally grainy, impressionistic prints, to sharp focused images of bright light and strong shadows. The majority of Kanfer's photographs explore the effects of weather and seasons visited on the flat prairie farmland of this area.

Kanfer is originally from St. Louis (not Chicago, as reported in last month's newsletter), and moved to the Champaign area to study architecture at the University of Illinois. He maintains a gallery in Champaign, and has exhibited his work throughout the region.

DOLLS, DIORAMAS, & OTHER FLIGHTS OF FANCY --December 4 - January 3, Main Galleries

This exhibition draws primarily upon three sub-collections within the Tarble Arts Center's Permanent Collection of Folk Arts: the First Lady Doll Collection by Leta C. Whitacre, the Famous Figures in Black History Doll Collection by I. Roberta Bell, and the Ferd L. Metten Collection of dioramas, carvings, and assemblages. Though all of these works can be categorized as dolls or figurines, they are not toys. Like other examples of folk art, these works serve as instruments to pass along cultural history and social values.

In the case of the collections by Bell and Whitacre, both of these artists created their dolls very specifically as teaching tools. Each used her collection when speaking to school and civic groups on Afro-American History and American History, respectively. Mrs. Bell taught elementary school for nearly thirty years, eighteen of which were in Chicago. Miss Whitacre was an alumna of Eastern

Illinois University, and taught in Hindsboro, Arcola, and Tuscola. Metten, a farmer from the Teutopolis area, created more as a matter of personal satisfaction and individual vision. His work, never-the-less, still communicates, in a very direct way, agrarian Midwestern interests and activities from the middle 1900's.

The Whitacre Collection was donated to the Booth Library by Miss Whitacre's brother, Harold Whitacre, and sister, Mabel Miller, and is on extended loan to the TAC. The Bell Collection was donated by EIU alumnus Grace Markwell Meier. The Metten collection was acquired from Miss Emma Metten, the artist's sister, with funds from the Charles E. Merrill Trust.

EVENTS

RECEPTION AND BOOK SIGNING

2-4pm, December 6

A reception to celebrate the exhibitions "Prairiescapes" and "Dolls, Dioramas, and Other Flights of Fancy" will be held in the Main Galleries. Artist Larry Kanfer will be on hand to autograph copies of his book, which are available for purchase in the TAC Gift Shop. Admission is free and everyone is invited.

CHRISTMAS ART SALE

10am-6pm, December 10, 11, 12

A special Christmas sale of original art and craft items by area artists will be held in the TAC classroom. This special sale is being coordinated by Ernie Whitworth, with a commission on all sales going in support of the "Make Room for Art" studio project. Please note the special hours.

TARBLE ART TRIP: "THE WYETHS"

Registration Deadline: December 15

A special trip by chartered motor coach will be held on January 16 and 17 to see the exhibition "The Wyeths: An American Vision" at the Terra Museum in Chicago. The exhibition features the work of N.C., Andrew, and Jamie Wyeth, spanning three generations of painting by America's realism "Dynasty." Accommodations will be at the Allerton Hotel. Proceeds will go to "Make Room for Art." Contact the TAC at 581-ARTS (-2787) for more information. A descriptive brochure will be mailed shortly.

TAC HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

December 24, 25, 31 & January 1

The Tarble Arts Center will be closed for Christmas and New Year's. Normal open hours will be maintained all but these four days.

UPCOMING

"MAGIC OF THE NAIVE" EXHIBITION

January 8 - February 7

--naive paintings on loan from the Yolanda Gallery, Chicago

POLISH POSTERS EXHIBITION

January 9 - February 7

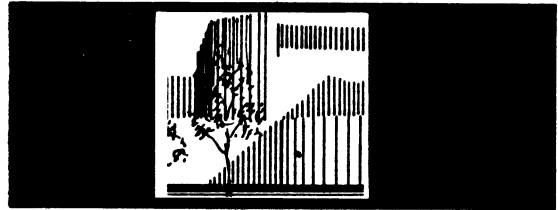
--from the collection of the School of Art and Design, University of Illinois

TRIO DE CAMERA CONCERT
--chamber music for winds

3 pm, January 31

GIFT SHOP & SALES/RENTAL GALLERY

A variety of holiday items, as well as raku vessels and masks by Vic Connor, have been added to the TAC Gift Shop by coordinator Ruth Jaenike. Sales/Rental coordinator Barbara Watts has added two new artist's works: watercolors and etchings by Barb Schrieber, and original prints by Joe Beck. There are also new works from Sharon Zimmerman, Georgia Newton, Anna Hjort, Phil Swartz, Janet Roney, Carole Myers, and Joyce Matteson. Also new are sculptures by Brent Collins and stained glass by Nita Helfenbein.



FROM THE CURATOR OF EDUCATION:

The Fall 1987 Tarble Arts Center classes have been a success, despite a late start and short notification. Area residents enrolled in most of the eleven classes offered for children and adults, with eight classes currently meeting at the Tarble. Thanks goes to everyone enrolled in these classes, and to their instructors.

Presently, several projects are being planned for Spring 1988. In spring, Tarble will again offer a variety of courses and workshops beginning in February. The brochure listing these will be available in January. Anyone not presently on our mailing list who wishes to enroll in spring art classes should call 581-2787 to request a brochure.

A film series is being planned for the months of January, February, March, and April. The series will offer information on various aspects of twentieth century Art and Film, featuring documentaries, rarely seen films, silent films, and early "talkies." The films will be shown Thursday evenings at 7:00pm, and will be free and open to the public. The film series brochure will be available at the end of December.

The Fifth Grade Art Enrichment Program is being planned for May 1988, and will focus on book art. "Artists' Books - Illinois," an exhibition featuring Illinois book art of the past ten years, will be on exhibit April 15th to May 29th, serving as the focal point for the Enrichment Program.

--Donna Meeks, Curator

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Membership renewals are being mailed to over 1,000 current and past members and supporters of the Tarble Arts Center as the major thrust of this year's membership drive. As the Center's attendance nears the 100,000th visitor, the TAC is developing new and expanded programs to better meet the needs and interests of its many audiences. Communication and coordination between area arts groups, out-reach programs to schools and other sites, and more cooperative efforts with other organizations and university departments are all currently under development. Though the University's commitment to the Center is substantial, continued support by the community through membership contributions is essential to sustain and expand the Tarble Arts Center's programs.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

--Michael Watts, Director



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